

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, Before line 7, please insert the following as the first paragraph:

--This application is a Continuation Application of International Application PCT/JP02/05694 filed June 7, 2002.--

Page 5, please replace the paragraph at lines 1-11 with the following amended paragraph:

In many cases of using a photothermal conversion spectroscopic analysis method that makes use of a thermal lens, it is necessary for the focal position of the exciting light and the focal position of the detecting light to be different to one another. FIGS. 4A and 4B are views useful in explaining the formation position of a thermal lens and the focal position of detecting light in the direction of travel of exciting light; FIG. ~~5A~~ 4A shows a case in which an objective lens has chromatic aberration, and FIG. ~~5B~~ 4B shows a case in which the objective lens does not have chromatic aberration.